

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

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Dear Harold,

The flak Hal is getting against you, if any, comes from Lifton, or perhaps, from Lifton through Newcomb. But Fred never even mentions Hal so I suspect more Lifton directly. But I would bet my bottom dollar that it is Lifton. Newcomb, when he writes of you, seems to parrot Lifton, and has written me things which indicate that his relationship with you was dismembered by a combination of disagreements in letters and Lifton from the other end. Sometimes I can even easily see Lifton's typical phraseology, which happens to be much different from that of either Fred or Maryann (fortunately for us), in Fred's letters to me. Then, in Lifton's letter to me of May 31, we find: "You are, as they say, in a 'bag,' similar to one which I have help-d others get out of on this issue; ..." (emphasis added--there it is, in black and white, written by someone who places himself on Olympus)

Since this disagreeable subject is up, since you know from me and perhaps others that Lifton is currently quite active (at least with regard to me) against you, I should tell you a few other items which are important, one of which I have refrained from making clear to you because it was very disturbing, and at the same time, might not be true. Lifton has given me clear indication or at least made definite claims to have spoken with someone who had read either both or one of your recent two manuscripts and have some knowledge of the contents. (He has, of course, tried an incredible amount of pumping on me, but ^{an} came up with little more than my own attempts to elicit info from him to see who he has, or if it could be important.) He did this on the phone and I was unable to get a clear idea of his source, although one thing which might help is that I think the discussion dealt with the autopsy, and therefore, it is more likely he was referring to Post Mortem. Furthermore, in his letter to me of June 7 of this year we find the following:

"(And by the way, in connection with Nichol's suit, Harold is apparently filing an affidavit, under some May, 1969 date, stating that he has been permitted to handle and examine the Archives Z film and has checked it for splices, and that there was none. All Nichols apparently wanted was statements which showed that researchers have been permitted to handle evidence. I think this affidavit could really muddy certain waters, especially as there is no distinction drawn between "pictures of a splice" and "splice." Do you know about this affidavit and do you think it is a wise thing??? Couldn't Harold have chosen something else he has examined in order to make his point??)"

Now Harold, this shook me up, because you just sent me that thing pretty recently, and I have never mentioned it to anyone and assumed that it was top secret. I doubt if Dave could have gotten it from Nichols since he did not know about Nichol's lawsuit a while back (I cannot believe that he would have lied about this, since at the time he was trying to impress me with how much he knew, even from the Garrison camp). You know better than I who else that leaves. To find this in his letter really shocked me, especially given the previous comments he has made about knowing someone who had read your stuff, or knowing someone close to you who allegedly agreed about your tendency to claim things were your work when they weren't (the latter could be Lifton's distortion, but I doubt if it is complete fabrication, since he is generally careful when quoting people, since he needs allies badly), etc. All I can say is that Lifton can be very convincing, except when he loses his control and starts raving, and that he is good at pumping, as you have said, and that he is good at putting pressure on people.

On Hal, bear in mind that he just may be busy, and that his work on the case has slacked off a bit and he just may have gotten out of touch.

Although not having experienced it myself, I think that I can understand your bitter feeling about not having gotten decent treatment in LA and still suffering financially as a result, while they live in the suburbs and philosophize, etc. Especially now, when some of them are spreading lies about you, and denying they ever needed you for anything, and denouncing you in general.

The comments which I passed on from Lifton, and to which you so eloquently and rapidly responded, from what both Fred and Dave have dropped during phone conversations, and rarely in letters, are representative of the double faced character of these people, or perhaps emotional distress or illness. They have daid these things before behind your back. I have not repeated them because they were largely second hand and not in writing and I felt that you were above them and also that you would waste time, as you have in the past weeks, refuting them. This type of infighting and cliquesmanship has undoubtedly cost the critics more than the flak from the other side. One of the reasons I abandoned my early desire to do a book on the critics was that to be honest, I would have to make a record of something which is better kept hidden from the rest of the world, so as not to discredit the work which has been done nor detract too much from the generally romantic image the average guy has about the critics. As for Mark, his work against you would have accomplished nothing were it not for those who received his words and did what they did as a result, so I consider that the least of the tragedies. (Mark's great tragic contribution has been his public work on this.) Also bear in mind that MuMu, Maggie, and others tend to build their worlds around social circles, parties, etc., and the same is true of Garrison, Sahl, and the rest. It is ironic that such a frantic fight as the critics should have waged was detracted from by the social niceties and desire for manners and soft words, rather than a staunch concern for the truth about everything from the assassination to their everyday lives. It is better to sip drinks on a veranda and take everything intellectually than it is to work your ass off, fight the establishment, and insist on such things of others as you do. As a student of human behavior I have sat & watched this since 1966 when I first got to know Vince, and I have relived it through correspondence files, etc., but it is a disgusting thing to see, since all of it was at least semi-predictable, although I would never have wanted to make the predictions. Right now I am greatly hampered by having only an idea of what happens on the West Coast, but it looks like Lifton all the way.

By the way, unless I am way off, Fred has been Lifton's fall guy for trying to see what I know about certain things which Dave is interested in more info on. The clippings about the Army being asked to strike in Germany the day of the assassination is a good example, and the same is true from Fred's last letter which dealt with a guy who looks like he could have been set up as a patsy in San Antonio. I am certain that these things come from Dave, because Dave is interested in both, and Fred not only has no knowledge, but the sources are beyond Fred's investigative work. I am playing the game, not letting them know I have caught on, but the childishness astonishes me. I have been with this thing since I heard Mark speak in Ithaca in 1964 and am not fooled by such stunts. Again, it is fascinating to observe as a psychologist. I am wondering how far they will go. I just gave them quite a bit of bait. What really blows my mind is not Fred but Lifton, who considers himself an intelligence man par excellence. It is really a great temptation to expose this nonsense, but I just have to watch where it goes. It gives me some idea of what Dave is doing at no expense to myself.

Well, best wishes. I hope that the thing with Hal works out, and suspect that it will. Silence is a tough thing to deal with, and once that is ended I am sure these things will be ironed out. But if there is a leak we must find it, or at least plug it for the future. My best regards to Lillian.

Gay

P.S. Now have a good contact in England who knows the case well. Is there anything he can do for you? He sounds like a good man, and has corresponded w/ Tom Katen for some time.